

create more local jobs by facilitating the promotion and sale of Maine products like wild blueberries in the Middle East, maple syrup in Central Africa, and shellfish in the Far East.

As we continue to promote products such as maple syrup abroad, we must also ensure that we are not hindering their success here at home. Pure maple sugar producers in my state have expressed serious concerns with the “added sugar” requirements in the FDA’s updated nutrition facts label rule. The rule would require the label to state that all sugar in the product is “added sugar.” While the FDA intended for the rule to help consumers make better-informed dietary choices, it is clear that the Agency’s proposal instead creates confusion. Producers believe that the term “added sugar,” when used with a single-ingredient sweetener such as pure maple syrup or honey, implies the addition of another sugar like corn syrup.

I have raised this issue directly with FDA Commissioner Gottlieb, who is open to considering other approaches proposed by the industry, and have addressed it through language in the agriculture funding bill that directs FDA to evaluate alternate labeling proposals. Although I am encouraged to see that the FDA recently announced it would “swiftly formulate a revised approach that makes key information available to consumers in a workable way,” I have joined Senator KING in offering an amendment to help ensure that this problem is rectified.

Another reasonable reform I am pleased to see included is sponsored by Senator GRASSLEY. It closes a loophole allowing an unlimited number of passive “managers” to be designated by farm entities for the purpose of collecting farm subsidies. These subsidies are intended to support workers who are truly “actively engaged.” This provision will save an estimated \$211 million, \$100 million of which will be reallocated to The Emergency Food Assistance Program, TEFAP, which supports food pantries around the country.

It is a testament to the leadership of Chairman ROBERTS and Ranking Member STABENOW that they have produced a strongly bipartisan farm bill, and I am pleased to have supported it.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for vote No. 140 on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018. On vote No. 140, had I been present, I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was also necessarily absent for votes related to consideration of H.R. 5895, the Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2019. Had I been present for vote Nos. 138 and 139, I would have voted yea on the motion to table Mr. LEE’s amendment No. 3021, as

modified, and I would have voted yea on passage of H.R. 5895.

As an original cosponsor of Mr. TESTER’s amendment No. 2971 to prevent the denial of access to records and documents by various inspectors general, and as an original cosponsor of Mr. BENNET’s amendment No. 2983 to increase employment for members of the Armed Forces in emerging industries, had I been present for vote Nos. 136 and 137, I would have voted yea on both amendments. In addition, on vote No. 135, had I been present, I would have voted yea on Mr. YOUNG’s amendment No. 2926 to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a study on the effectiveness of the Veterans Crisis Line.

#### HONORING GEORGE C. WILLIAMS AND THE CREW OF THE FLYING FORTRESS

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I wish to honor George C. Williams and the crew of the 42-299-28 B-17 Flying Fortress that was shot down over Normandy, France, during WWII 75 years ago on July 4, 1943.

George C. Williams, bombardier from Warren, Trumbull County, OH, was killed in action. While assisting the nose gunner, his chute accidentally opened inside the aircraft. Pilot Olof Ballinger offered up his own parachute, but George refused. It is believed that he attempted to fly the plane after all the crew had evacuated.

Pilot Olof Maximilian Ballinger, of Newton Falls, Trumbull County, OH, evaded capture and walked alone, with no compass, over the Pyrenees Mountains. He reached safety in Spain in November 1943 and returned to the U.S. He eventually moved to California.

Harry W. Basucher, Jr., of Cincinnati, OH, was killed in action inside the plane by enemy cannon fire.

Copilot John Marshall Carrah, from Chico, CA, evaded capture and escaped to Switzerland and then to Spain and returned to the U.S. in March 1944 and continued to assist in the war effort. He was a career U.S. Air Force officer retiring as a lieutenant colonel.

Byron J. Gronstall, from Van Nuys, CA, who evacuated the plane, was captured by a German patrol. He was a prisoner of war at Stalag 7A.

William C. Howell, from Goldsboro, NC, who evaded capture, was seriously wounded.

Francis E. Owens, of Pittsburgh, PA, evaded capture but died of exposure in the Pyrenees Mountains while trying to assist other crewmen through the dangerous passage. He was awarded the Soldier’s Medal for bravely dragging wounded men out of harm’s way.

John K. Lane, a radio operator from Deland, FL, was captured and was a prisoner of war at Stalag 7A and 17B. Francis E. Owens found John K. Lane unconscious and dragged him the length of the plane before attaching a parachute and pulling the ripcord while assisting him out of the aircraft.

Paul McConnell, the navigator from Montgomery, AL, evaded capture.

Albert Wackerman, from Salinas, CA, was killed in action by enemy fire aboard the B-17.

A documentary was created about these 10 brave American aviators and will be featured at an event in Warren, OH, on July 2, 2018, at the Samuel E. Lanza Veterans Resource Center.

The son of copilot John M. Carrah, who has done extensive research, heard first-person accounts from his father, and assisted in filming the documentary, will speak after the documentary viewing. This event is sponsored by the Tribune Chronicle with assistance from Warren city councilman John Brown.

The bravery of the crew of the 42-299-28 B-17 Flying Fortress was indicative of so many of their generation who risked life and limb to liberate Europe from an evil unlike anything our country and allies had ever faced.

We can never repay them for their service and sacrifice, but this United States Congress and our Nation are forever grateful for their actions and the actions of so many others like them.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO TOM LABRIE

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Tom Labrie of Phillips County for his 18 years of serving his community as the head chef at the Great Northern Restaurant.

Tom was born and raised in Malta. After graduating from Malta High School, Tom began working at the Great Northern Restaurant where he is a self-taught chef. He has since worked at the Great Northern Restaurant for 18 years, working his way up the line to head chef. He and his wife Anna have two kids and are active members of the Malta community.

Tom’s time at the restaurant stands out for two reasons: his hard work and his skills in the kitchen. Although he is the head chef, he does more than cook the food. Other employees and customers find him filling in wherever help is needed, including cashing out customers. While he is a self-taught chef, the food he creates makes the Great Northern Restaurant and Hotel stand out in Malta and the greater Phillips community.

Tom is the secret ingredient to the success of the Great Northern Restaurant. The employees are grateful for his leadership and hard work as it keeps the restaurant running smoothly.

Congratulations, Tom, on your successful career and impact on Malta’s community. I look forward to my next stop at the Great Northern Restaurant to try your famous chicken fried steak.●